

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 40-48 and 55-78 are presently active, Claims 1-39 and 49-54 have been previously canceled without prejudice, and Claims 55-58, 60 and 62 are amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 55-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 11-196540 in combination with Buono (US 5,949,222) or Higuchi (US 6,275,013). Claims 40-48 and 64-78 were indicated as allowed.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 55, Claim 55 is amended to be dependent from Claim 40, which was indicated as allowed. Therefore, Claim 55 is believed to be allowable.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 56-63, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome because, in Applicants' view, amended independent Claims 56, 58, 60 and 62 patentably distinguish over the applied references as discussed below.

Claim 56 recites, *inter alia*, "a storage element that is connected ***between the booster circuit and a load***, the storage element being configured to store the boosted output inputted through a first rectifier element connected in a forward direction between the booster circuit and the storage element, and being configured to generate a constant output voltage and ***output the constant output voltage to the load***, the constant output voltage being supplied to the booster circuit as the start-up energy."

Instead, JP 11-196540 discloses a secondary battery (22), to which a boosted output from a booster circuit (20) is supplied. However, the secondary battery (22) is not connected between the booster circuit (20) and a load. Further, the secondary battery (22) does not output a constant voltage output to the load. Rather, the secondary battery (22) is a load of the booster circuit (20). The outstanding Office Action acknowledges that JP 11-196540

does not disclose generating a constant DC output voltage, and relies on Buono and Higuchi to remedy the deficiencies of JP 11-196540, stating Buono and Higuchi both teach utilizing a Zener diode to generate a constant DC output voltage (Office Action at page 2, lines 12-15). However, Buono and Higuchi merely describe utilizing a Zener diode to generate a constant DC output voltage. Therefore, even a combination of JP 11-196540, Buono and Higuchi do not teach or suggest that the secondary batter (22) is connected between a booster circuit and a load and outputs a constant voltage to the load.

Thus, JP 11-196540, Buono and Higuchi fail to teach or suggest at least “a storage element that is connected between the booster circuit and a load, the storage element being configured to store the boosted output inputted through a first rectifier element connected in a forward direction between the booster circuit and the storage element, and being configured to generate a constant output voltage and output the constant output voltage to the load, the constant output voltage being supplied to the booster circuit as the start-up energy,” as recited in Claim 56.

Claim 58 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, “a power supplying unit that is disposed independent of the power source and supplies the start-up energy.”¹

Instead, JP 11-196540 describes that a booster circuit 20 is connected to a generator 12, which supplies a target voltage to be boosted, and an oscillation circuit 18, which controls the booster circuit 20. However, the start-up energy of the oscillation circuit 18 is supplied by the generator 12 through an oscillation control unit 16. That is, the start-up energy of the oscillation circuit 18 is not supplied independently from the generator 12, which generates a target to be boosted.

¹ See Fig. 14 and the corresponding description in the specification.

Thus, JP 11-196540 fails to teach or suggest at least “a power supplying unit that is disposed independent of the power source and supplies the start-up energy,” as recited in amended Claim 58.

Likewise, JP 11-196540 fails to teach or suggest at least “a power supplying unit that is disposed independent of the power source and supplies the start-up energy,” as recited in amended Claim 60.

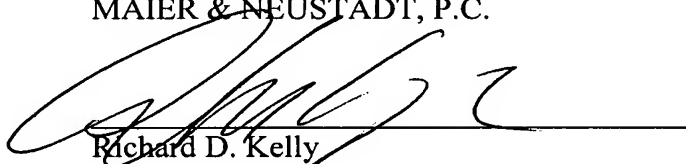
Likewise, JP 11-196540 fails to teach or suggest at least “a power supplying unit that is disposed independent of the power source and supplies the start-up energy,” as recited in Claim 62.

Accordingly, independent Claims 56, 58, 60 and 62 patentably distinguish over the applied references. Therefore, Claims 56, 58, 60 and 62 and the pending Claims 57, 59, 61 and 63 dependent from Claims 56, 58, 60 and 62 are believed to be allowable.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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